

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks:

The claims in the case are: 1 to 7 and 9 to 17.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to insert the subject matter of Claim 8 .

The rejection of Claims 1-7 and 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable in view of US 6,216,831 is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

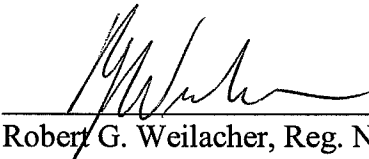
Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 8 which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Since all of the claims now include the feature of Claim 8, applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been placed in condition for allowance.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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